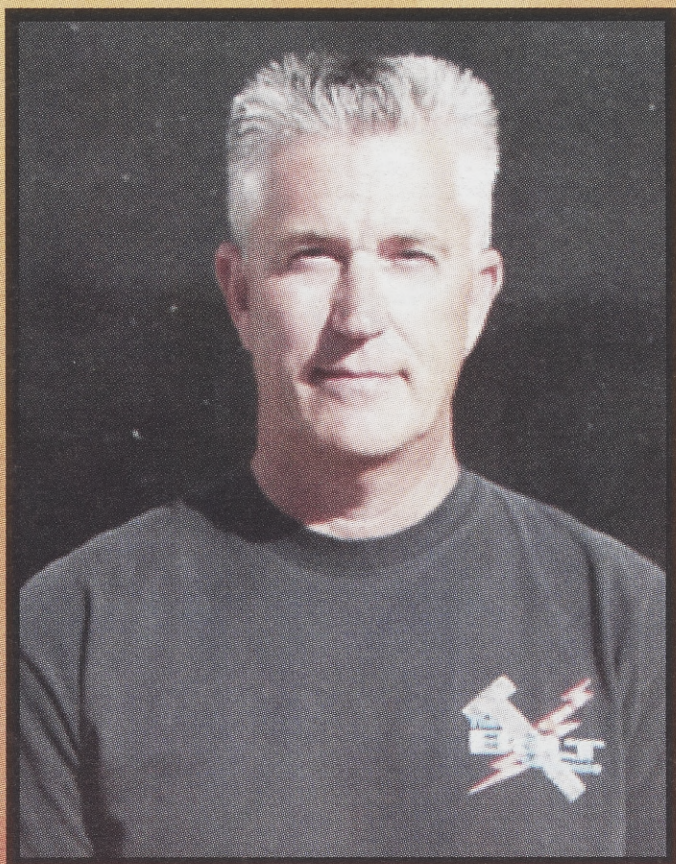


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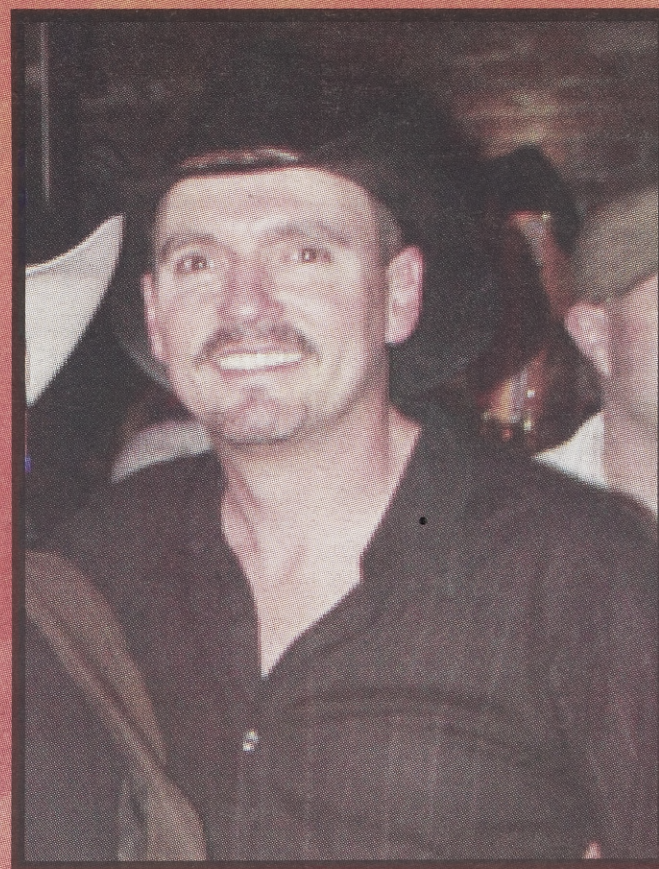


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### Proponents of Constitutional Amendment Banning Marriage for GLBT Couples Continue Signature Gathering Drive

Equality for All Calls for Volunteers to Educate Voters on Dangers of the Initiative for Millions of California Families

With just a few weeks left to qualify for the ballot, proponents of a constitutional amendment banning marriage for same-sex couples are reporting that they have gathered 881,000 of the 1.1 million signatures needed. The Equality for All campaign continues to fight this signature gathering drive, calling on the GLBT community and all fair-minded Californians to help stop this initiative.

"We have thousands of volunteers across the state talking to Californians about the harm that this amendment will cause, and our campaign is significantly reducing the effectiveness of this paid signature gathering effort, but we need to keep it going," said Oscar De La O, Executive Director of BIENESTAR. "People should not be treated unfairly under the laws and constitution of our state."

The "Protectmarriage.com" campaign is calling on volunteers and paid signature gatherers to turn in their petitions by April 1, but petitions can be turned in as

late as April 21 and still count toward qualifying the amendment for the ballot.

Because the proposed ballot initiative would change the state constitution, the legislature, which in 2005 and 2007 passed a marriage bill, would be prohibited from passing another bill in the future, erasing years of progress. And since constitutional amendments take precedence over legislation and limit the authority of courts, current cases that might lead to marriage would be stopped or reversed.

"This campaign will come down to the wire," said Kate Kendell, Executive Director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights. "With the Supreme Court poised to rule on whether gay and lesbian couples can marry in California, there's never been another moment quite like this one with so much hanging in the balance. We need everyone who cares about marriage, justice and GLBT equality to be out there now so we can avoid a ballot measure in November."

The proposed constitutional amendment would "amend the California Constitution to provide that only marriage between a man and a woman be valid or recognized in California."

"We know that most Californians agree that the government has no business telling people who they can and cannot marry," said Delores Jacobs, Chief Executive Officer of the Center Advocacy Project. "We are thrilled that so many volunteers have joined our campaign to stop this initiative, but we need twice as many to join us in these last critical weeks. With just over 200,000 signatures left for our opponents to gather, we have a good chance of keeping it off the ballot, and we need the help of all fair-minded Californians to ensure that we do."

Volunteers from Eureka to San Diego and each of the more than 40 organizations in the Equality for All Coalition have joined the effort. More than 20,000 people have signed a pledge to support marriage for glbt couples.

"I'm working on this campaign because I think that the freedom to marry in this country should be as fundamental as other basic personal rights, such as free speech, the right to vote and the pursuit of happiness," said Jan Garbosky, a volunteer with Equality For All. "Gay and lesbian couples are committed to each other and stay together for years in the face of tremendous discrimination. Despite these challenges, these couples are courageous in facing opposition and committed to building happy lives together. I just don't think that the door to marriage should be closed for some people."

The Equality for All campaign is a large and diverse coalition of civil rights, faith, choice, labor and community of color organizations working to stop and defeat any ballot measure that would deny gay and lesbian couples the right to marry in California. For more information and to volunteer for the campaign, please visit [www.equalityforall.com](http://www.equalityforall.com)

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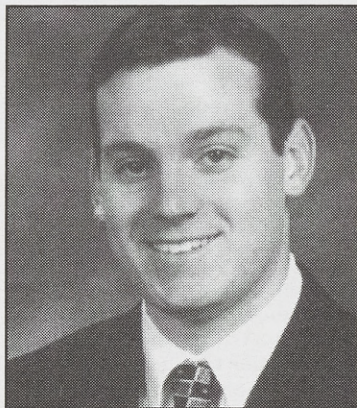
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## POLITICS/OPINION

### Libertarian Perspective: Cut It Out (Government Spending, That Is)



By Adam B. Summers

March has arrived, and as spring approaches we prepare for another season of new beginnings. That is, of course, unless you are a California taxpayer. Then it may be a new budget season, but it's the same old, same old in the fight to fix the state's structural deficit.

It should come as no surprise that the politicians in Sacramento are resorting to the usual tricks to try to paper over the growing budget gap for another year without doing anything to solve the underlying problem: runaway spending. Government spending has significantly outpaced inflation plus population growth for years, and under California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's tenure it has even exceeded the profligate spending of recalled Governor Gray Davis.

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) has issued a report pegging the deficit through June 2009 at \$16 billion, up from the \$14.5 billion estimate contained in the governor's budget proposal issued in January. To address the problem, the Legislature passed some "emergency" budget measures recently, but those measures are expected to save only about \$2 billion. The bulk of the package consists of more borrowing, transfers, postponements, and other accounting gimmicks that will only delay the tough decisions lawmakers appear unwilling to make.

Part of the problem is the way the state budget is

crafted. California utilizes incremental, or "line-item," budgeting, in which budget allocations are made based on adjustments to the previous year's spending levels, often with little justification. This method provides little incentive to identify and eliminate lower-priority, inefficient, duplicative, or poorly performing programs. By contrast, the state of Washington uses a Priorities of Government (POG) system, under which the government performs a top-to-bottom evaluation of what services the government provides and how. Government activities are ranked from most to least important and are funded on down the list until available revenues run out. One of the greatest benefits of the POG system is that it makes priority and trade-off decisions clear to everyone.

Then there are the things government shouldn't be doing in the first place. Is it really a core government function to market agricultural products, promote tourism in one of the most desirable travel destinations in the country—indeed, in the world—or license cabinetmakers, locksmiths, tree trimmers, and upholsterers?

Cutting such unnecessary programs is hardly the only solution to the problem, however. Governor Schwarzenegger is to be commended for reviving the idea of a meaningful spending cap with a rainy-day fund to smooth spending over economic cycles. In addition, he should dust off the recommendations of the 2004 California Performance Review, which detailed \$32 billion in potential savings over five years through commonsense reforms such as consolidating similar and duplicative government agencies, selling surplus property owned by the state, and adopting performance-based budgeting and contracting. Moreover, California must address its unsustainable retirement system by reducing salaries and benefits for future state employees so that they are in line with those of the private sector.

Despite what some

lawmakers would like us to believe, this is a budget crisis borne of an addiction to spending, not a revenue problem. In the past four years, General Fund revenues have increased approximately 32 percent. In fact, total revenue has grown steadily since the early 1990s, shortly after major tax increases were imposed during Pete Wilson's administration. Legislators intent on trying to solve their spending problem on the backs of taxpayers through tax increases would be wise to take this lesson to heart, especially considering the ongoing housing crisis and threat of economic recession.

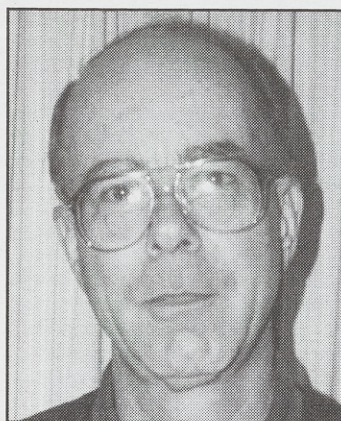
Five years ago, we had a massive budget deficit and a Democratic governor who was accused of negotiating sweetheart deals with the state's prison guards' union and who pushed through a "play-or-pay" health care mandate on California employers (which was thankfully repealed by voters in 2004). Today, we have a massive budget deficit and a Republican governor who is offering the prison guards' union a \$260 million a year raise that the LAO says is unnecessary and unaffordable anyway in the present fiscal climate, and who has tried to ram through a \$14 billion health care plan and mandate (which has thankfully been shelved—for now). Hooray for the two-party system!

It is time that Californians and their elected representatives undertake a serious reevaluation of the proper role of government. Government has simply gotten too big and too intrusive. The casualty is individual liberty. Only when we rediscover the truth of the maxim "That government is best which governs least" will we be able to restore any fiscal sanity to our state government.

Adam B. Summers is a policy analyst at the Reason Foundation. He has written extensively on privatization, government reform, law, and economics. He holds an M.A. in economics from George Mason University and B.A. degrees in economics and political science from the University of California, Los Angeles.

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## Ballot Initiatives May Threaten Court Victory

By Boyce Hinman  
The Lambda Letters Project, [LambdaLP@aol.com](mailto:LambdaLP@aol.com)

of many bills approved by the state Legislature since 1999.

Here is a list of the initiatives showing the numbers assigned to them by the Secretary of State, the purpose of the initiative and the date by which 694,354 valid signatures must be submitted. If that number of valid signatures is not submitted by the deadline then that initiative fails.

### Pending Initiatives:

No. 1264 Purpose: To ban same sex marriage and take away the rights of domestic partners. Due Date for Signatures: 02-08-08. Status: Failed.

No. 1293 Purpose: To ban same sex marriage and take away the rights of domestic partners. Due

Date for Signatures: 04-21-08. Status: Pending.

No. 1298 Purpose: To ban same sex marriage. Due Date for Signatures: 04-28-08. Status: Pending.

No. 1309 Purpose: To ban same sex marriage and take away the rights of domestic partners. Due Date for Signatures: 05-27-08. Status: Pending.

No. 1322 Purpose: To ban same sex marriage and take away the rights of domestic partners. Due Date for Signatures: 06-30-08. Status: Pending.

You can check the status of these initiatives online, at the Secretary of State's web site, by directing your web browser to; [http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_j.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_j.htm). Then scroll down to the initiative number.

As I have said in a previous article in this news magazine, it is possible that the California Supreme Court may rule that the ban on same sex marriage in California is unconstitutional. However, when the Massachusetts Supreme Court issued a similar ruling, they gave that state a six month grace period to bring their laws and processes into compliance with the court's ruling. If the California Supreme Court did something similar they might make their decision effective as of January 2009.

The problem is that several groups are now circulating petitions to amend the California constitution to ban same sex marriage. If they get enough signatures on one or more of these petitions the issue might be voted on on election day, November 4, of this year. Then, if the majority of those voting voted for the initiative, that vote would nullify the decision by the California Supreme Court. Same sex couples would indeed not be allowed to marry in California.

It could be even worse. Some of the petitions being circulated would also repeal the rights of domestic partners that have been enacted by the state legislature over the past several years.

In order to qualify for the ballot in November the initiatives' supporters must gather at least 694,354 signatures. The deadline for when the signatures must be submitted to the Secretary of State's office varies depending on when the initiative was first submitted to the Secretary of State for permission to start the signature gathering process. One such initiative has already passed the signature submission deadline and failed because they did not gather the minimum number of valid signatures.

Four other initiatives are still in the signature gathering stage. They may yet qualify for the November 2008 ballot. All of them would amend the California constitution to ban same sex marriage in California. Three of them would also amend the constitution to terminate the rights that domestic partners have received as the result

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## COMMUNITY

# Women on Wednesdays at the Sacramento Gay and Lesbian Center

By Tamara Little

Do you want to become involved in your community, make new friends, and have a lot of fun? Come to Women on Wednesdays. This social and support group meets every Wednesday at the Sacramento Gay and Lesbian Center from seven to nine PM. Any female-identified person over the age of eighteen can be a part of this group. Whether you are lesbian, straight, bisexual, transgender or choose not to use any specific identity, you will be welcome here. There is always something exciting going on in this group. It has a rich history as well.

## Group Beginnings

Women on Wednesdays (W.O.W.) was founded in 1987. It was the first group to be sponsored by the Center. The facilitators for the first seven years were Laura Enright and the late Frankie Hobbs. In 1993, they won them a Lambda Award for their leadership. While the group has always met at the Center, the Center has not always been in the same location. Originally, it was located in the building next door, on the corner of Twentieth and 'L' Streets. A few years later, it moved down Twentieth Street between 'K' and 'J.' It has been in its present location of 1927 'L' Street for some time.

Special events have always been a part of W.O.W. Some of the first were dances.

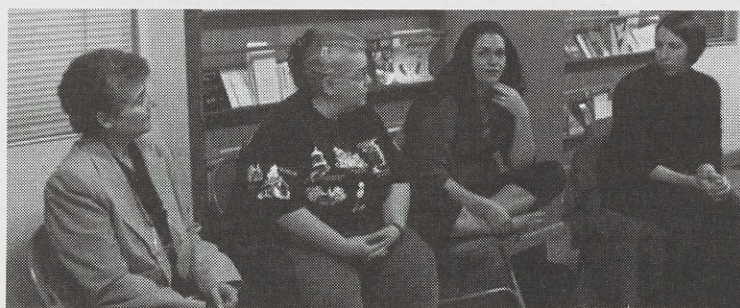
The original Center had a large central room that was perfect for these. Music was provided by D.J.'s. Other events included potlucks, movie nights, and guest speakers at meetings.

The identity of W.O.W. has evolved with the times. At one point, its name was spelled Womyn on Wednesdays as a reflection of the sensibilities of the time. The name was changed back to the standard spelling a few years ago.

Many women have had a role in facilitating W.O.W. Some have started groups of their own. Femme Fridays, a group on the first Friday evening of each month at the Lavender Library, was started by former W.O.W. facilitators.

## W.O.W. Today

More than 20 years later, W.O.W. is still going strong. At least twenty women



Photos By Tamara Little  
(Above) W.O.W. Organizers Shannon Rex and Melba Duncan (Left) W.O.W. Members involved in a discussion

attend each meeting. Most attend regularly. There are always new people to meet and things to do.

For the past two and a half years, W.O.W. has been facilitated by Melba Duncan. She is joined by three co-facilitators: Shannon Rex, Kathy Johnson, and Judy Saint. All take turns leading to share responsibility and provide the group with different perspectives. They try to plan group topics in advance, although they also like to have some surprises. A bag filled with random topics on pieces of paper is ready when needed.

W.O.W. is a place where all women can feel safe. Those who are in the process of coming out are welcome here. Women in different stages of their lives come here, so you will likely find someone to relate to. Members are of many ages, primarily from around thirty to sixty-five. Recently, an increasing number of young women have started coming to the meetings, so the average age of the members fluctuates.

The group's main rule is that members show respect towards each other. Both facilitators and members acknowledge that this is a diverse group with varying views on politics and religion, and so try to avoid heavily

personal or emotional topics. At times the discussions are more serious than others. However, the aim is to keep the feeling of the group light and comfortable, with as much laughter as possible.

Besides discussing numerous topics, W.O.W. meetings include activity nights with games and art activities. The group uses its fund of member contributions to purchase supplies and pay for events. In October 2006, the group had its first art show at the Lavender Library. Some of the members are very creative, and W.O.W. provides a great outlet for this. The group plans to have another show at the library soon.

W.O.W. continues to host events and trips. There are currently plans to visit the California Museum for History, Women and the Arts. The group is planning many other fun activities for this year, such as a weekend camping trip and several movie nights. There are occasionally guest speakers at the meetings.

W.O.W. is a great place to meet friends and contacts. Many women have met their partners here, though most come mainly for friendship. It is a great social alternative to bars and clubs. Members often visit with each other after the meetings

at local clubs, restaurants, and coffeehouses. This is a wonderful place if you are hoping to find people who will care about and support you. W.O.W. members look out for each other and become an extended family. If any member is in need of help, she can expect other members to be there for her. There is a group email list, and facilitators check in on regulars who suddenly stop coming. Members genuinely care about each other's well being and do not hesitate to help. Women who attend W.O.W. look forward to meetings. The facilitators enjoy what they do and say the group is very rewarding for them. Melba is passionate about her work. It is obvious that she cares a lot about what she does and this is something very important to her.

W.O.W. is active in the community. In many ways, members are keeping the group visible and working to have a positive influence on others, including the fellow groups at the Center. The group makes a point of supporting the Center to give back to them for what they have been given. Members often volunteer and W.O.W. raises money for events and general expenses. Last year, the group held a rummage sale that was very successful. This year, they sponsored the flower arrangements for the Lambda Awards.

W.O.W. is involved with other organizations as well. They have collaborated with the GSA

Network by providing artwork for them. They held a house party at the Center for Equality California. They also contributed to the Christmas fund of Sacramento Valley POZabilities, a local organization for people living with HIV.

W.O.W. is an active part of Sacramento's Pride events. Last year, The Center's public relations director Bonnie Osborne suggested starting a Sacramento Dyke March during the annual celebration. It was a great success, with over 300 women marching from the Center to the state Capitol. Most were W.O.W. members. W.O.W. also has a booth at the Rainbow Festival in September.

## W.O.W. In The Future

Although its identity constantly evolves, the mission of W.O.W. remains the same.

The group strives to ensure that all women have a place to go where they can be free to be themselves. The facilitators vow to always be there for members. They make sure to stay in good communication with the Center's directors as well as with the group.

The group's main goal is to keep its legacy going. W.O.W. is a valuable resource for the community and an asset to the Center. It is invaluable for every woman who is in need of or searching for friendship and support. Hopefully this group will be around in another twenty years to provide this. Because of the growth in membership, particularly of younger women, the facilitators are considering starting a new group specifically for them. They want to make sure that W.O.W. is able to serve every woman who wants to be a part of it.

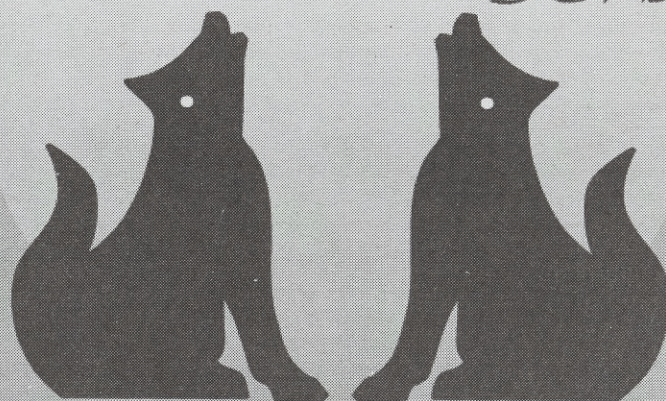
In addition to the other ways the group is visible in the community, W.O.W. has a page on the Center's website. There you can get an idea of what the group is like, and there is a phone number for more information. The group is always seeking new members with something to contribute. Whether it is your thoughts, ideas, or simply your presence, you are encouraged to become a part of this unique and wonderful group.

Women on Wednesday website:  
[saccenter.org/programs/wow](http://saccenter.org/programs/wow)



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## Lazy Bear 2008 July 30 - Aug. 4

This is a memorable year. Lazy Bear is now 13 years old!

A lot of changes have occurred over the years, providing volunteers from Sacramento. The Friends of Sacramento now is using a network of appropriate 501©3 organizations to create a new volunteer work force.

As Lazy Bear continues forward, individuals are welcome with open arms to volunteer. You may donate your volunteer hours to the 501©3 organizations participating as part of the Sacramento volunteer work force.

The Bolt this year is not only participating for a second year, but is also sponsoring a pool party. Details will be announced on the Lazy Bear website: <http://www.castrobear.com/LazyBearWeekend>.

You may also leave a message on the Lazy Bear website if you wish to volunteer and it will be forwarded to the appropriate person.

The 2nd Lazy Bear meeting for Sacramento, will be April 20th. That is a Sunday, meeting to be held at The Bolt at 2 PM with their BBQ to follow.

Hope to see old and new 501© 3's and well as individual volunteers.

## Sacramento 3M Gay Pageant & Campaign

The Imperial Court of Sacramento presents "A Night of Japanese Geisha Madness", the title of this year's Mr., Mrs., Miss Gay Sacramento and At Large Pageant. The event will also be the kick off event for the 2008 Imperial Elections.

On April 5, our community is invited to join Mizz Monique Moore, the reigning Miss Gay Sacramento 2007 and Foxy LaRue, the current Miss Gay Sacramento-At-Large as they crown their successors.

At this year's event doors will be open at 5:30pm with the pageant beginning at 6:30pm. The 18+ event will be held at Club 21, 1119 21st St. with a cover charge of \$10 (\$5 under 21).

The show will be hosted by Sacramento's very own Bette Midler and last year's Miss Gay Sacramento Miss Precious Cargo among others.

The evening's judged will be Margaret Ramirez, Canella Mass, the reigning Empress of San Jose, the reigning Emperor and Empress from Chico and the reigning Emperor of San Francisco.

## EQCA's Political Action Committee Endorses Kolakowski

Statewide GLBT PAC Makes First  
Judicial Seat Endorsement for  
Openly Transgender Candidate

Equality California's Political Action Committee has endorsed Victoria Kolakowski in the Alameda County Superior Court race. Kolakowski, who is openly transgender, is a longtime attorney, community leader and currently an administrative law judge for the California Public Utilities Commission.

"This is an historic opportunity to elect a highly-qualified transgender woman to the bench in Alameda County," said EQCA PAC Executive Director Geoff Kors. "Victoria will be a fair-minded judge and has proven herself as a dedicated community leader. She will adeptly serve Alameda County and help add much-

needed diversity to the bench. Her election will inspire transgender youth and adults throughout the world and help educate the public about our community."

Kolakowski has practiced law since 1989, most recently working as an administrative law judge for the California's Public Utilities Commission and Department of Insurance. She is an active leader of several government commissions and has held official positions

with a handful of non-profit organizations including the Interfaith Working Group, Transgender Law Center, Tenderloin Health, Equality California, Marriage Equality USA and the East Bay Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club.

Alameda County voters will choose the new Superior Court Judge in a June 3 open election. For more information about Kolakowski, visit [www.kolakowskiforjudge.com](http://www.kolakowskiforjudge.com).

The Equality California PAC is a sponsored committee of EQCA, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots-based, statewide advocacy organization whose mission is to achieve equality and civil rights of all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) Californians. EQCA is one of the leading statewide GLBT organizations in the country. [eqca.org](http://eqca.org)

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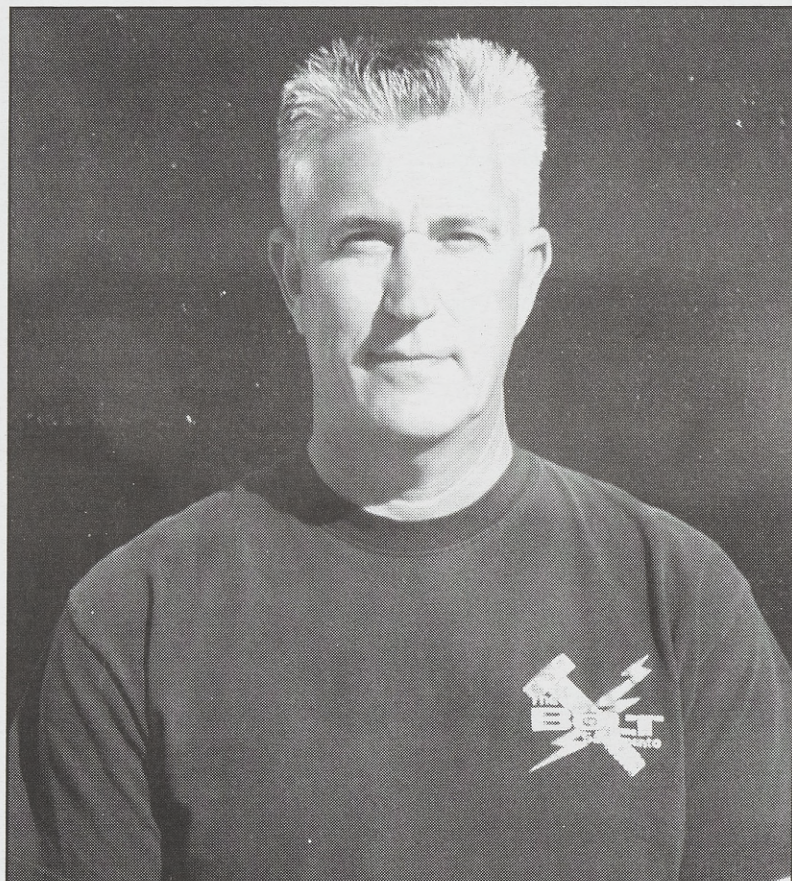
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# Kenny Yerkes Celebrates Second Year As Bolt Owner

By Matthew Burlingame  
(Rich Jones contributed To This Article)



For over a decade, The Bolt Bar has been a staple in Sacramento's Gay Community. It has sometimes found itself at the heart of controversy, whether because of its one time anti-female/trans attitude, or being named as the best place for public sex by Sacramento News & Review readers. Despite its ups and downs, the Bolt Bar has continued to serve our community not only with drinks, but with a place for many charities to hold fundraisers and benefits that raise much needed funds for various causes.

Two years ago, then owners of the Bolt decided it was time for retirement. Enter Kenny Yerkes, a long time bartender at the Bolt who decided he would step up to make the Bolt more than just a job, but also his Home.

Yerkes, a 47-year-old who grew up in Meadow Vista, a small town 20 miles above Auburn. He realized he was different at age 8, but by age 12 knew that he was gay.

Unlike many, Yerkes found coming out to be relatively simple.

"I never really cared what anyone thought about it," says Yerkes. "If my friend who knew me for however many years—if they didn't like it, I didn't care. That's their problem. I'm the same person, nothing changed."

It wasn't until later in his life that Yerkes would become active in the community, getting involved at Rainbow Festival working in the beer tent.

Yerkes credits Rainbow Festival originator and fellow Bar Owner Terry

Sidie as being one of his heros.

"He's done so much for the community and given so much back—whether he was my friend or not, he's an inspiration."

Yerkes had purchased the building that houses the Bolt a year before the Bar was up for sale. So it was a natural progression to take the leap from landlord to business owner, though he admits he knew little about the bar business before taking the helm.

It has been a fast and furious ride, one that has had plenty of bumps along the way. But Yerkes feels the journey has been worthwhile.

"It's made me realize that I am stronger than I thought I was," he states positively.

The Bolt itself has changed, many feel for

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## 2007-2008: A Year of The Bolt

Pictures By David Dilley, Rich Jones, Matthew Burlingame

the better. The interior, while still maintaining the South-of-Market feel, has been updated with large screen televisions, new game systems, and a remodeled outside.

For years, The Bolt has been the main spot for Sacramento's Leather and Bear communities and were considered to be anti-female/transgender.

No, while the leather and bear communities still frequent the bar, the clientele has become much more diverse, welcoming all who are looking for a low-key, laid back wateringhole.

On the Bolt website it says "No girly men ever". but Yerkes assures it is merely a joke.

"Actually, it was to harass Terry (Sidie). It isn't meant in a bad way, just fun and games."

Yerkes is celebrating his second year as owner, with a past year that saw thousands of dollars raised for a number of different charities. Among them, the Sacramento Valley LeatherCore, CGNIE, Sacramento Valley Knights, SCCGRA, Lavender Library, Rainbow Festival and many others.

"I support as many charities as I can because they support all of us and it's important we return that support with our own," says Yerkes.

This year the Bolt may get international recognition as Mr. Bolt Leather 2008 Jake Anderson seems to stand a good chance at winning as this year's International Male Leather competition in Chicago.

"He's got everything it takes," says Yerkes. "He's good looking, has a good personality and he's really into this—it's not a game to him."

As for now, Yerkes is proud of the Bolt and what he and his staff have accomplished in the last two years.

"It's changed in a lot of ways, we're growing," Yerkes explains. "We put our foot in the door where ever we can. We want it to be a comfortable bar for everyone that walks in."

So far, so good.

For more information on the Bolt visit: [sacbolt.com](http://sacbolt.com)





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## Local Art Students "Reveal" Great Talent

Armed with lap easels and sketch pads, approximately 70 art students from area high schools, recently took part in "Sketch Night," a rare educational field trip hosted by Bodies Revealed, the human body exhibition. The private evening session gave students the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to sketch real, whole body specimens while learning how all systems work together simultaneously during both still and athletic movements. "This is fascinating," said Stephanie Durham, one of the participating students "...even better than I thought it would be. I'm learning about art and science at the same time!"

For three hours, students quietly studied the human form and patiently drew the subject of their choice. Some worked in small groups, discussing technique and comparing final works. Others chose to work individually, captivated by the reality of what stood before them.

"This is an extraordinary opportunity," said Joyce Henry, an art teacher at Roseville High, noting how much her students were enjoying the experience. "The exhibit shows great respect for the human body and is a great learning tool for everyone."

Days following the sketch night,

Judith Clemons art class from Elk Grove High was still overwhelmed with gratitude. "It's all the students have been talking about," she said, "what an enriching experience in so many ways."

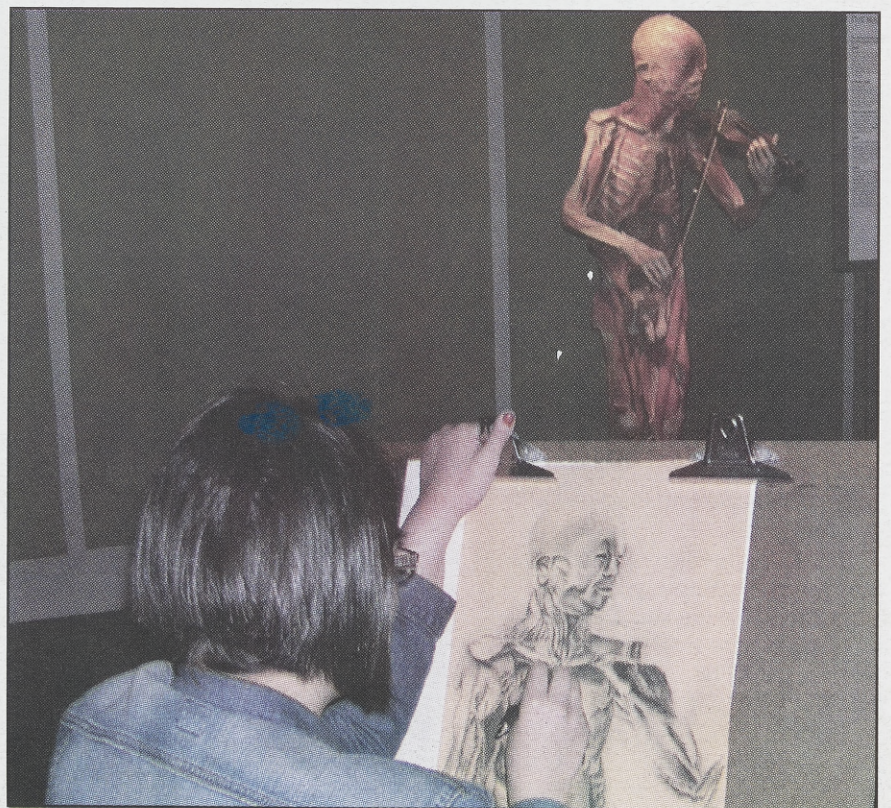
The exhibit, which made it's North American debut this December in Sacramento is located at 2040 Alta Arden Way and will continue it's run through early spring.

About Bodies Revealed: The world-famous anatomical exhibition features real, whole and partial body specimens that have been meticulously dissected and preserved through an innovative process, giving visitors the opportunity to view the complexity of their own organs and systems like never before.

The exhibition takes visitors through nine galleries providing an up-close look inside the skeletal, muscular, reproductive, respiratory, circulatory and other systems of the human body. Many of the 250+ whole body specimens are dissected in vivid athletic poses, allowing the visitor to relate to everyday activities. The Exhibition changes the way people see themselves and is designed to enlighten, empower, fascinate and inspire.

Bodies Revealed Ticket Information: 1-888-263-4379 or [www.bodiesrevealed.com](http://www.bodiesrevealed.com) Ticket Prices: Adults (13-64) \$24; children (4-12), 17; Seniors (65+) \$22; Audio Guide \$6

Melissa Cazares, Woodland High School student, sketches at the Bodies Revealed Exhibit Photo By Christi Stevens





# SAC BADLANDS FIRST ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Pictures By Kiny McCarrick

On Friday, March 28, TJ and Marge Bruce, along with the Badlands crew opened the doors of Sacramento Badlands to longtime friends and supporters to celebrate the one year Anniversary of the video dancebar. The packed house enjoyed free drinks, snacks, go-go dancers and a great evening with community and friends.





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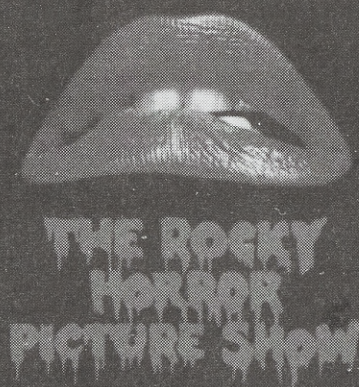
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Baroness (Eileen Beaver) and Lady (Jackie Shimonau) help Mary Ann (Julie Chafin) come to grips with the idea of reaching ffff... ffff... Fifty! in Magic Circle Theatre's production of the musical Hats!. Photo by Raquel Pearson.

## You're Just Older, Not Dead!

Inspired by stories, experiences and mission of the Red Hat Society, HATS! is about a 49.999-year-old woman who reluctantly faces the inevitable BIG Five-0 ... until she meets several remarkable women who show her about fun, friendship and forgetting about things that simply don't matter anymore. Magic Circle Theatre is pleased to present this Special Event: the Northern California premiere of Hats! starting April 11 in our Roseville Theatre location.

Filled with funny and provocative songs by Grammy, Golden Globe and Tony award-winning songwriters, HATS! will keep you laughing whether you're a 50+ woman, have lived with a 50+

woman, intend to be a 50+ woman, know a 50+ woman, or just want a great show.

HATS! will play Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 and Sunday afternoons at 2:00, April 11 - May 17, 2008, in the Roseville Theatre, 241 Vernon St., Roseville. Tickets are \$22 - \$25 general admission, \$20 - \$22 seniors and students, \$12 - \$14 children 11 and under. Call (916) 782-1777 for tickets. mcircle.org

Due to previously scheduled concerts, there won't be performances on April 26, May 3, or May 10. Sundays afternoon performances are already filling up.

## "Little Bus Players" are back at Garbeau's

### Puss in Boots! Tickets on Sale Now

"This feels so right," said Troy Thomas concerning the return of the Little Bus Players to Garbeau's. Founded by John Lee, the acting troupe debuted at Garbeau's, where its family theater "by adults, for children of all ages" garnered over 148 Elly nominations. Having parted ways more than five years ago, the LBP and new ownership of Garbeau's were happy to reunite the pair.

For their first return outing, the LBP are mounting a revival of Lee's original version of the classic European tale, Puss in Boots. This time, Puss is a sleek and feminine feline fiddler with a sassy, spicy

Cajun flavor. "Come on down to the bayou, y'all, to meet the Gumbo family and the mystical Momma Roux--but beware of that ol' Ogre Jambalaya, ya' hear?"

Puss in Boots runs March 15 through April 12, 2008. \$12 General admission; \$10 children 12 and under; Free to children under 2. Information can be found at [www.garbeaus.com](http://www.garbeaus.com) or by calling (916) 985-6361 for tickets and reservations.

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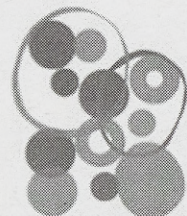


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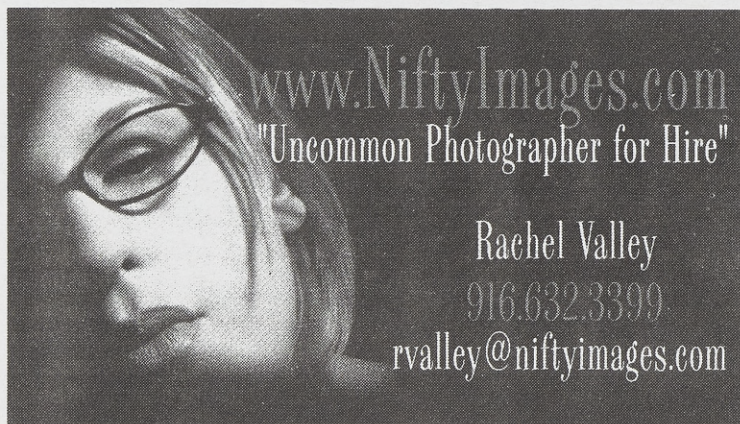
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## The Cowgirl Spirit Or Those Who Seek Shall Find...



By Erin Von Ohlsen

Growing up as a boy trapped in a girl's body created an interesting mix of originality and confusion. I had no desire to do what other girls did or to dress like them, yet I was not held to the standards the other boys were, and Thank God for that. My sensitivity and often outbreaks of tears were easily accepted because it was OK for girls to cry but not for boys. Excelling in sports made me a star because I was better than most girls, but didn't have to compete with boys. So although confusion and rejection played a major part in my life, I believe much favor has come from my androgyny.

I quickly found this to be true in my early twenties when I created an androgynous character called the "Dirty Cowgirl" (aka Lesbian/Cock-block Cowgirl). She was birthed while touring the country with a bluegrass/jam-band. I wore a brown leather cowgirl hat over long blond hair with cargo pants and a tee-shirt. This was the costume that won the ladies over.

The bottle of whisky or wine I carried everywhere gave me the courage to be a smooth talker. I lived in my car and traveled through 49 states in 5 years. I partied with rock-stars, bohemians, gypsies, and bums. I seduced many women and cheated death regularly. I stayed awake for days at a time and experienced the supernatural both through hallucinations and the utter denial of systems that keep humanity locked in fear and mediocrity. My goal was to spread light and love wherever I went while feeding my insatiable hungers and addictions. The duality of this may seem like an impossible contradiction, but today I see it as the sword that cuts the seemingly black and white ideas about God.

After touring for five years I began seeking God through metaphysics and esoteric

spirituality. Meditation, rituals, magic and other practices inspired me to seek the truth in ways forbidden by my Christian upbringing. I went to a school that could be compared to a modern day "Hogwarts". There were many titles attached to my name like Reiki Master, Ritual Master, Adept Initiate, Shaman and Spiritual Healer. I learned how to manipulate energy and to work with the natural elements Earth, Water, Air, and Fire. I carried a wand with me amongst many other tools. I also carried with me much pride. I was burdened with the duties of ritualistic spirituality and a fearful urgency to save the world.

After a summer at "Hogwarts", I went to stay with some friends in Arcata, CA. For about three months up until this point I was continually bombarded with signs, feelings and visions leading me to travel to Kauai, Hawaii. I got on a plane by myself with a backpack and no plan. I hitchhiked from the airport to the Napali Coast where I began an eleven mile hike into the Kalalau Valley. This valley is only reached by boat, helicopter or on foot and it is known to be a sacred spot of transformation for the ancient Hawaiian people.

In the first two miles of this hike, I lost the soles of my sneakers. The humidity literally separated the glue and I hiked the rest of the very intense, dangerous rocky wet trail soleless. I saw the irony in this as I "lost my soul" on that trail. My time in this valley was spent seeking my purpose for being there. The day I left to return to civilization was more intense than the day I came in.

I kayaked out with a man I'd met in the valley. Unknowingly, we started out early on a morning of a tropical storm. The ocean was rough...but steadily became unbearable. To compound the most intense workout my abdominals have ever experienced, the kayak was filling with water. The water was coming through a large crack in the bottom of the kayak and we could not stay afloat. There were only cliffs at our sides and no way for us to reach the shore. I felt like shark bait desperately trying to keep my head above water as to stop the salt from burning my eyes. Three hours of wading/waiting passed before we were rescued by a boat passing by.

After my feet hit the sand

and I kissed the ground I was taken to the home of my current partner Vicky. At that time, she was the woman's pastor for her church on Kauai. She was preparing for a new session and had been fasting and praying for one week. The day I walked into her home was the last day of the fast. The following day a group of ten women met there to pray and break the fast by eating together.

So I sit in the prayer circle with these women, holding their hands and listening to their prayers. One of them begins to pray for me and suddenly, quite dramatically I feel my heart chakra open, and Jesus flood me with a love...a peace...a joy I'd never experienced before. His spirit was clear and tangible and I was blown away.

That was four years ago. Vicky and I have been with each other since. My life has been freed from much bondage since this experience. My spirituality has changed, but the mysteries and mystical supernatural happenings are ever-present. Now they seem to have less focus on me and more on the power of the Most High God.

The different schools of thought about my experience vary. Was this an awakening of the Christ-Consciousness in me? Was this the experience of enlightenment that so many religions speak of? I recognized in this moment the being of Jesus and today I speak of Him as my portal. I believe in Christ-Consciousness and in enlightenment. I believe in the truths that so many religions and systems of spirituality speak of. None of this is negated by my experience with Jesus, only today I find the Christ-Consciousness within me craves Christ Himself. My humanity often lures me away from the awareness of my Christ-Consciousness and I find that talking to Jesus instantly links me back up. As if God were the internet and Jesus was the fastest and most reliable server.

Erin Von Ohlsen comes from a lineage of ministers, preachers, and healers. She also has these gifts and is seeking the Creator's insight as she discerns how these gifts will manifest in her life. She and her partner, Vicky, are relatively new to Sacramento. To contact Erin directly, email your comments or questions to spirit@achurchforall.org or mail them to P.O. Box 162073 Sacramento CA 95816-2073. To learn more about A Church For All visit us at [achurchforall.org](http://achurchforall.org).





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# Helping First Time Buyers



By Jennifer Cox

Jim Barnhart, and over the years has been staffed with numerous friends, family members, and clients. I have been with Old Valley Homes and Loans since 1991, when my mom and I were working out of her home in Elk Grove. I got my license in 1994, and have worked in almost every nook and cranny of our business, including listing homes, representing homebuyers, and doing appraisals. I am a First-Time Homebuyer expert, and I have helped hundreds of my friends and their friends get a great home and finance it the way THEY wanted.

I am Director of Business Development and Senior Loan Officer with Old Valley Homes and Loans, a Midtown Real Estate and Mortgage company specializing in helping First-Time Homebuyers realize their dreams of homeownership. Old Valley Homes and Loans is family owned by my parents, Marcy Boyd and

We have recently been given the amazing opportunity to share our wealth of knowledge with the community through the Borders Live Class series at Borders Books in Natomas

and Fair Oaks Blvd. We have taught several different classes, including Reverse Mortgages, Investing in Bank Owned Homes, Green Lending for the 21st Century, and The Prepared First-Time Homebuyer.

Our First-Time Homebuyer class is designed to teach first-time buyers the ins and outs of credit approval, income documentation, and the various types of down payment assistance, as well as a Magic Formula which will give most buyers an idea how much they can afford to spend on their new home before they ever see their mortgage consultant. This formula begins by taking your Gross Monthly Income (total before taxes) and multiplying by 40%. Then from this figure subtract your monthly Credit Obligations (car payments, credit cards, student loans, any other debt

payments – NOT including utilities, insurance, daycare, etc), which leaves you with a number roughly equivalent to the maximum monthly payment you can afford. You then take this number and divide by 7%, and multiply the result by 1000, which tells you the maximum LOAN AMOUNT you can qualify for, according to the maximum payment. This valuable tool allows buyers to consider how much they can really afford pay for their home, a conservative number with more flexibility for buyers with excellent credit and reserves (such as Savings, Retirement accounts, IRAs, Stocks). It's still true that the better your credit and proven ability to save, the higher you can push your debt ratio. However, now more than ever you must prove your income, as Stated Income loans have become elusive, and expensive when available.

Recently 100% Financing has been eliminated from most lenders in California, as a result of our declining real estate market. Specifically what has happened is that Mortgage Insurance Companies, those big companies who have to pay the lenders a certain amount of their loss from a foreclosure, have lost too much money in California and now require a 5% LTV (Loan to Value) cut to ANY property in a declining market, which includes ALL but TWO California counties. This means that even if you qualify for one of Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac's 100% programs, it's not available in most of California. Don't worry though! Mortgage Lenders want to make loans to qualified buyers, and there are still NUMEROUS ways to buy a home with little to no money down. Most of them include government financing, FHA or VA, CalPERS, and combinations of Down-Payment Assistance programs like Access, gift programs like Nehemiah, and programs available from city

agencies such as Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency and NeighborWorks. Some of these programs have income restrictions limiting availability to people who make LESS than 100% of the area median income, which for Sacramento County is \$67,200. The Nehemiah Program, which many people thought was gone, is still going strong and allows a gift of up to 6% of the sales price with NO INCOME LIMITS.

Sacramento has literally HUNDREDS if not thousands of homes available for under \$150,000, which means that for the first time in at least 3 years, people who make a moderate income can afford to buy a home! And even though market changes have restricted some lending programs, new programs become available to allow qualified buyers to make their home buying dreams come true!

You can learn more by coming to our next class in the Borders Live Class Series this weekend. We'll be teaching The Prepared First Time Homebuyer on Saturday Apr 5 at 5:00 pm at Borders in Natomas, and again on Sunday April 6 at 2:00 pm at Borders on Fair Oaks Blvd. We are also teaching several other classes in the Borders Live Class Series, check out our website for more dates and classes – [www.oldvalleymidtown.com](http://www.oldvalleymidtown.com).

Jennifer Cox is the Director of Business Development, and Senior Loan Officer, at Old Valley Homes and Loans, a Midtown, family-owned and operated, full service Real Estate and Mortgage Company. Old Valley Homes and Loans is the area's first Green Lender. Jennifer has been with Old Valley for 16 years, and has been a DRE licensed salesperson since 1994. Jennifer is heading up Old Valley's Green Lending solution.



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Livin' Free™



By Sharon Fredrickson

I had yet another interesting lunch the other day with an individual that we'll call "Larry". Larry had contacted me and asked if he could take me out to lunch and pick my brain. He had recently attended my seminar titled "The Secret to Livin' Free" and hoped for some one-on-one time to get some burning questions answered. This isn't something I normally do (in fact never do), but for some reason this time I agreed. Maybe it was because I thought I heard an eagerness in his voice to make a change. Maybe it was because I was toying with the idea of getting back into personal coaching. Now I'm thinking maybe I hit my head right before agreeing to meet him and was suffering from temporary "drain damage".

I met Larry at one of my favorite restaurants and as soon as I sat down, the questions started coming at me. They were pretty much the same, "I've read books on this stuff before, but how do I make it really work?"

It? What the heck is "it"? Larry explained to me that "it" was the Laws of

## It's Time to Stop Preparing

Attraction. He went on to explain that he really wanted to be successful, but just didn't have it all mapped out so it was very challenging. He knew what he wanted to do, but didn't know exactly how to get it done. He had a great product and that he truly believed in, but just couldn't figure out how to get it out to people and more importantly how to make money from it. He even told me that people were requesting his product so he knew it was in demand. Yes, you read that right. He had people requesting the product from him, but couldn't figure out how to make money from it. It was at this point I started looking for and hoping to see Ashton Kutcher lurking around getting ready to tell me I had been punked. I asked Larry if he was charging these people for the product and he looked shocked and said "no way could I do that". That was the last straw; I immediately knew that this was going to be a drinking lunch. A glass or five of wine should do it!

I spoke with Larry for a little over an hour trying to help him determine what exactly was preventing him from obtaining the success he wanted.

It boiled down to this: he was in such a strong mindset of preparing that he wasn't even able to see the opportunities for action. Larry isn't the only person like this. So often I meet people that are caught up in preparing to prepare that they never take the necessary steps forward.

They feel as though everything must be totally and completely in place before

they are ready to make the step forward. Once again, it really just boils down to fear. Fear of the unknown and fear of not being good enough to actually be successful. It is that fear and that mindset that prevents anyone from being successful at whatever they attempt to do.

Please don't get me wrong. There is a certain amount of preparation that needs to be done before you can take action, but that preparation must always be advancing you towards your end result. The reality of life is that there is not a step-by-step road map of success. Larry was looking for someone to give him that map so that he could feel secure and confident in taking this risk.

The reason that he couldn't find the success he so desperately was searching for, was because he refused to change his mind set. Every time I asked if he was ready to be successful, he answered me with an excuse or barrier that could potentially stand in his way.

Success doesn't begin with your inspiration. Success begins as soon as you move your feet towards the goal. It begins when you decide today is the day that you start creating your future. It begins when you not only decide that yes, you were born to be great, but when you decide to claim that greatness. The question isn't "does it work", the question is, "are you prepared to let it work?"

Sharon Fredrickson is the cofounder of Livin' Free which is a company that is dedicated to leading people towards success in all aspects of their lives. For more information on Sharon and Livin' Free visit them at [www.livinfree.biz](http://www.livinfree.biz).

## EARTH TALK

FROM THE EDITORS OF E/THE ENVIRONMENTAL MAGAZINE

### How or where can I recycle clothes that are too old or worn out for Goodwill?

Just because that old shirt you used to love is too threadbare to wear anymore doesn't mean it has to end up in a landfill. "Consumers don't understand that there's a place for their old clothing even if something is missing a button or torn," says Jana Hawley, a professor of textile and apparel management at the University of Missouri-Columbia. "Ninety-nine percent of used textiles are recyclable."

Non-profits like Goodwill and the Salvation Army play a crucial role in keeping old clothes out of the waste stream. When they get donations of clothes that are too threadbare to re-sell in one of their shops, they send them to "rag sorters" that specialize in recycling pieces of fabric large and small. Says Hawley, these textile recyclers sell about half the clothing they get back overseas in developing countries, while unusable garments, especially cotton t-shirts, are turned into wiping and polishing clothes used by a variety of industries and sold to consumers. She adds that other textiles are shredded into fibers used to make new products, such as sound-deadening materials for the automotive industry, archival-quality paper, blankets and even plastic fencing.

Outdoor clothing and gear maker Patagonia, which plies a strong environmental mandate in key aspects of its operations (from sourcing of raw materials to managing waste to making grants to environmental nonprofits), in 2005 launched its innovative Common Threads Garment Recycling program. The program was originally begun so customers could return their worn out Capilene long undies for recycling, but has expanded to taking back Patagonia fleece and cotton t-shirts as well as Polartec fleece

from other manufacturers. Consumers wanting to unload items that meet the program's criteria can do so at any Patagonia retail store or by mailing them into the company's Reno, Nevada service center.

Of course, do-it-yourselfers handy with needle-and-thread or sewing machines can turn their old clothes into new creations such as quilts, handbags and smaller items. The website Expert Village, which claims to have the largest online collection of "how-to" videos, offers a free series called "How to Recycle Old Clothes into New Fashions." Short step-by-step videos in the series cover such topics as transforming old garments into works of art; sewing patches, buttons and beads onto old clothes; deconstructing a wedding dress; ironing graphics onto old garments, and much more. Another good use for threadbare clothes (as well as sheets and towels) is pet bedding, whether in your own home or donated to a local animal shelter.

According to the non-profit Institute for Local Self-Reliance, textiles make up about four percent of the weight and eight percent of the volume of all municipal solid waste in the U.S. The commercial recycling company U'SAgain—which runs private for-profit recycling services in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Minneapolis, Seattle, St. Louis and elsewhere—finds that some 85 percent of the 70 pounds of textiles the average American purchases each year ends up landfilled. That means the typical U.S. city with 50,000 residents has to pay (with local tax dollars) for the handling and disposal of some 3,000 tons of textiles every year. The shame of such waste is that textiles are so easy to recycle or otherwise find new uses for.

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Patagonia: [patagonia.com](http://patagonia.com)  
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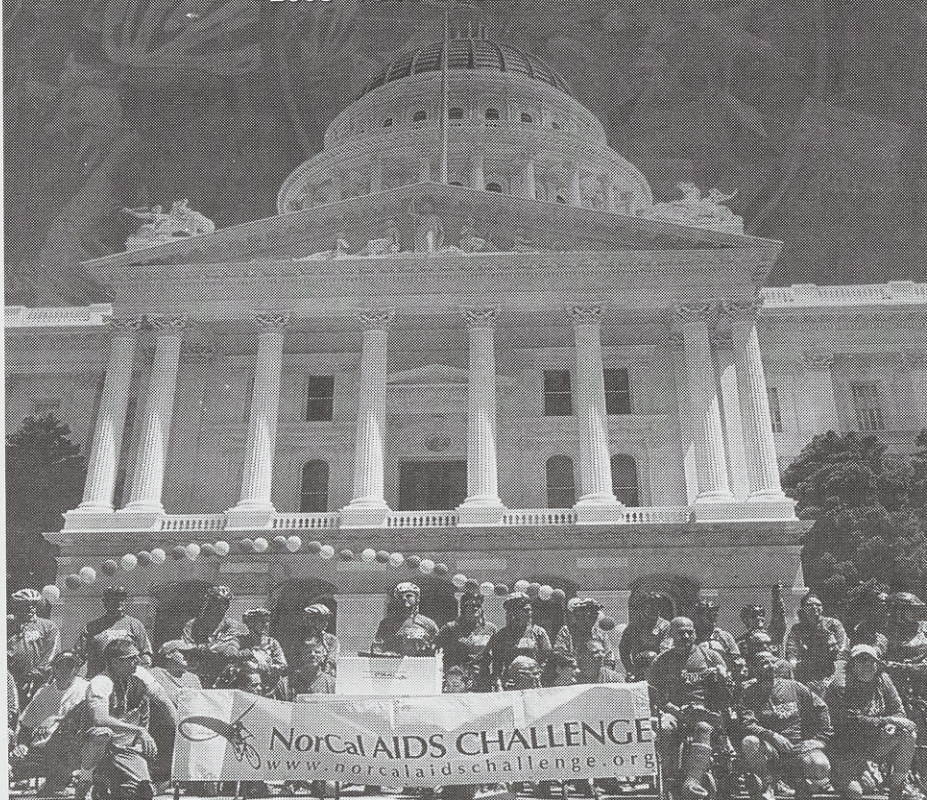
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## HEALTH

### Will Congress Do More for HIV Prevention?

Following a vote in the House Committee on Foreign Affairs to reauthorize the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) last month, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has passed its own version of the bill that would authorize the largest international health initiative ever dedicated to a single disease. Soon after the spring recess, both the full House and Senate will vote on the PEPFAR Reauthorization bill.

Reauthorization must address the need for sound, evidence-based prevention activities that would make the best use of PEPFAR funds, particularly for women and girls with six new infections for every person accessing AIDS treatment, this need cannot be overstated. The Administration estimates that over the past five years, 1.4 million people have gained access to anti-retroviral drugs under PEPFAR. During that same period, however, there were 12.5 million new infections.

The challenge of providing treatment access to so many people compels dramatically increased and evidence-based investments in prevention efforts. Sexual transmission is the single greatest cause of new infections worldwide and is responsible for 80 percent of new infections annually in sub-Saharan Africa. The highest rates of new infections are among women and youth. Ending this pandemic requires that we use every tool available in preparing people to protect themselves from infection.

This legislative process presents a key opportunity to significantly strengthen evidence-based prevention programs to reach many more people, particularly by integrating HIV and family planning services, yet Congress will not even publicly discuss the issue. Ending this pandemic and preventing new infections means engaging in tough political debates and letting evidence, rather than ideology, guide the solution. Congress can, and should, take the following actions:

Support proven prevention strategies. Infections are growing most rapidly among women and adolescents. Family planning and other reproductive health services are often the "first responders" on HIV prevention for these groups, who are more likely to use these health services than any other segment of the population. Yet, the Senate version of the bill neglects to list family planning at all in the series of program linkages which should receive priority - and the House bill includes new restrictions on the participation of family planning organizations in PEPFAR that will greatly hamper the urgently needed expansion of effective and efficient health care services.

Mischaracterizations of family planning by a handful of opponents led to the removal of language that would support expanded access to contraceptives for HIV positive women receiving prevention of maternal-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services. The World Health Organization recommends that family planning services be provided to women in PMTCT services should they choose to prevent another pregnancy. Only 11 percent of pregnant HIV-positive women have access to services to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Integration of family planning and HIV services would dramatically increase the number of women reached, saving the lives of countless babies and mothers, yet so far policy makers have refused a public debate - succumbing instead to a vocal opposition that is driven by something different than ensuring the best possible HIV prevention activities.

Remove unproven abstinence-until-marriage requirements. The "compromise" on the funding earmark for abstinence-until-marriage

programs is a political fix rather than sound practice. In reviewing PEPFAR programs, the Institute of Medicine reported that "by requiring the country teams to isolate funding for these activities [abstinence], this budget allocation has undermined the teams' ability to integrate prevention programming." The World Health Organization and countless others - including the US Government Accountability Office - have found no evidence that abstinence-only programs delay sexual debut or prevent the spread of HIV or other sexually transmitted infections.

While the hard earmark may be gone, recipients that spend less than 50% of funding for prevention of sexual transmission on abstinence programming will have to justify their prevention strategy in a report to Congress - which produces an outcome similar to the earmark at the field level by creating pressure on community prevention programs to meet arbitrary limits driven by ideology, not epidemiology or the reality of people's lives. Public health experts on the ground must be able to determine the best mix of prevention programming. As it stands, their hands are tied by mandates from Washington and Congressional committees rife with ideological differences.

Eliminate the prostitution pledge. The 2003 PEPFAR legislation requires groups fighting HIV/AIDS overseas to pledge their opposition to prostitution and sex trafficking before receiving U.S. money. Sex workers are among the most marginalized and discriminated people in every country and often lack access to social and health support systems. Prevention programs that have reached sex workers through first building trust have yielded dramatic reductions in HIV infections among these populations, slowing the spread of HIV in countries such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, and India. However, the prostitution pledge - which was created solely to promote ideology rather than public health - has resulted in the loss of funding to a number of cutting edge prevention programs reaching the most vulnerable.

Congress seems to think that having organizations sign such a pledge will help contribute to ending prostitution. In reality the opposite may be true. According to numerous reports, these policies have led to the further alienation of already-stigmatized groups and given free rein to police officials and others to rape, extort money from and otherwise discriminate against women in sex work. Instead of reducing dependence on sex work, the policy is driving sex workers under ground and away from the NGOs and health workers best poised to help them.

News reports and press statements have celebrated the authorization of \$50 billion for global AIDS. However, large sums of money, spent unwisely, will not stem the rapid spread of HIV and will require an ever growing need for increased resources in the future. The bills fall short exactly where more was needed: full and flexible funding of prevention programs that will enable us to end the pandemic.

HIV and AIDS is primarily a sexually transmitted infection, which makes addressing it in the U.S. political context challenging. But true U.S. leadership in this area would enable best health practice to prevail over ideology and save countless lives.



# Worst Part of *Spartans* Is The Time Between The Opening and Closing Credits

By Tom Swanner  
& Brian Judd

## Horton Hears ...

Swanner: Last Saturday, Brian and I went to see the latest from Fox animation Horton Hears A Who. This of course is based on the Dr. Seuss book about an elephant that hears a small voice that no one else can hear. It turns out that the tiny voice comes from Whoville, a small world that lives on a speck on the top of a clover flower.

Judd: Is that what it was about? I was distracted after twenty minutes by the girls next to me climbing over the seats like little monkeys with ADD.

Swanner: It was like free token night at Chucky Cheese. I don't remember a worse screening. It was a theatre with 500 seats and 400 of them were children 6 and under. The rest of the audience were the parents that didn't give a damn what their kids were doing, and then Brian and I. I think one reason why the kids were so restless was because they know the story so well. The movie followed the book page to page. The familiarity of the story had my attention wandering.

Judd: Or, and this is just my humble opinion, parents don't beat their children enough these days. What happened to seen and not heard? I know that it's my fault for going to a matinee on Saturday. It would be the same if I went to Raley's on double coupon Tuesday and complained there were too many old people. Or the Dollar Store at the first of the month and complained there were too many poor people.

Swanner: Thank you for stereotyping once again. I thought the use of vocal talent was really good but Steve Carell was the real stand out. He makes the Mayor very funny. I also like the animation. It's just amazes me how good it's all gotten. I will agree with you that parents need to get back to controlling their children. If beatings will work then I'm all for it.

Judd: I don't call them "stereotypes"; I call them "time savers". You know whose voice I was disappointed with? Carol Burnett. I was expecting so much more from her, but both she and Jim Carrey were very down-played. I agree the movie was visually excellent. I thought the Whos and Whoville looked amazing. It was like they stepped off Dr. Seuss's two dimensional page into a three dimensional world.

Swanner: That's a very good



point. Whoville was very visual and exciting but Horton and the jungle setting not so much. This summer has a lot of family movies coming out so we really need to start the thing with parents beating their children so maybe we can handle another matinee.

Judd: Let's write a "Beat Your Child" public service announcement we can get on Radio Disney!

Swanner: \*\*1/2  
Judd: \*\*

## Meet The Spartans

Swanner: Normally Brian and I go to screenings sponsored by the studios every week, but there are a few movies that the studio doesn't screen because they so awful that they already know what the critics are going to say. Meet The Spartans is one of those movies. That meant that we had to find this film for ourselves so we could review it for you...our readers.

Judd: Don't say we never done nothing for you! Writers Friedberg & Seltzer got their start writing with the Wayans brothers on Scary Movie. After the Wayans Brothers decided the Scary Movie spoof thing was played out after the 3rd movie, Friedberg & Seltzer made one more on their own. Somewhere along the way they discovered a false sense of talent and have created four more spoof films, Meet the Spartans being the latest. Now, I've always heard you're supposed to get better with practice. These guys seem to only

get worse.

Swanner: You know the way these movies work...they take a successful movie's plot and add lots of other movie scenes and pop culture gags for laughs. Laugh...that's the one thing I didn't do. When I tell people the story they think it sounds funny and I believe it could have been funny but someone on these movies is doing something terrible wrong. The jokes fall flat or last too long. The saddest part is that the movie from the end of the opening credits till right before the closing credits is less than an hour. That means you are definitely not getting your monies worth anyway you look at it.

Judd: The reason the jokes and dance sequences are so drawn is because the movie would have been 40 minutes long if they hadn't. These are lazy writers looking to cash in on the idiots of America that are willing to part with \$10 at the theatres or \$20 for home purchase. I don't think Friedberg & Seltzer even try to be funny - they don't have to. They know their demographic is going to laugh at a fart sound effect just because it's a fart. These are the guys that think if you tell a joke once and it's funny, you tell it 100 times it'll be hilarious.

Swanner: I do have to say that Nicole Parkers Brittany Spears was funny but that was it. It was sad to see so many Mad TV alumni wasting their talent here. It was also sad that I had to waste my time here. Did you see they have The Superhero Movie coming out

now...bet it's not going to be funny either. I'd like to kick someone's ass for Meet the Spartans and let me say now that it's just best to avoid these shlockfests.

Judd: Super Hero Movie was written by somebody else. I'm not saying that it's going to be good, or even tolerable, but it might not be as bad.

Swanner: No Stars  
Judd: No Stars

## Doomsday

Judd: The other day Tom and I saw Doomsday, the newest movie about a virus that wipes out a population. Written and directed by Neil Marshall, the same guy that gave us a The Decent, Doomsday takes on a whole different style. Doomsday is an homage to every 80's post-apocalypse movie but done to the extreme with a little wink and nod.

Swanner: The storyline is Glasgow Scotland is ravaged by a virus, so the government basically closes up Scotland to die to protect the world. Now after many years the virus has reappeared in England and the English government sent a team into Scotland to look for the cure that has the population of Scotland surviving and thriving behind the protective walls. It was like watching clips from some of my favorite films. Escape from New York, Aliens, 28 Days Later, Excalibur (I'm serious), Road Warrior and Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome. That's just a few of

them.

Judd: The Scotland survivors were divided into two factions. There were punk cannibals that lived within the city and fought with spiked bats, modified cars and dirt bikes. Why they were cannibals was never really explained. It had nothing to do with the virus or survival; they just liked to eat people, I guess. Then there were the medieval knights of yore that resided in a castle and used horses and crossbows. And if that weren't enough, our heroine has a false eye she can take out of her head and use it as a remote camera.

Swanner: Not to mention that our heroine is one of the few survivors that made it out of Scotland before the wall went up. I really went in thinking this was going to be bad. They didn't do any screenings for critics so I expected the worst. It wasn't all that bad. The special effects are good and the action never stops. None of the characters are memorable but it moves so fast you don't have time to notice.

Judd: Another thing I liked about the film were the old school special effects. There was a lot of fire and Molotov cocktails. The camera was under-cranked during chase scenes. There were a lot of make up effects. The movie is getting awful reviews and most of the critics that are panning it are saying that it's a nonsensical rip off. Critics, like myself, that liked the film enjoyed it for the exact same reason; we get the joke. There are clues if the very beginning of the movie that tell us we're not supposed to take it seriously. An exploding rabbit would be one of them. Doomsday is very much a grindhouse film, and I don't know why critics aren't picking up on that.

Swanner: Critics are probably all bitchy because the studio didn't screen it and they have to either pay for a ticket or they are sneaking in to see the movie. It's a popcorn movie but much like Live Free or Die Hard the filmmakers are having a good time with the film and if you open yourself up to it I think audiences will to. Unfortunately I think the film will end up faltering at the box office but it should do really well on DVD.

Judd: This is movie is a must have DVD for anyone who likes cheesy action films. I think that it will definitely build a cult following over the years.

Swanner: I'm in full agreement that DVD will help it find it's audience.

Swanner: \*\*1/2  
Judd: \*\*\*



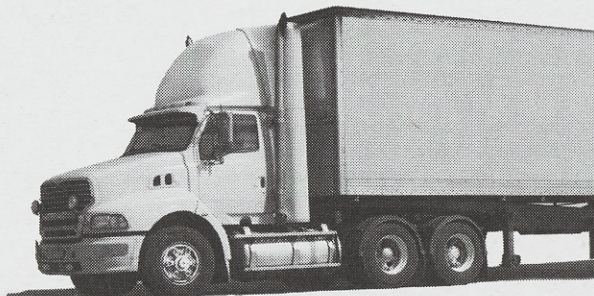
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Capital City Volleyball League  
[sacvball.com](http://sacvball.com)  
Capital Crossroads Gay Rodeo Ass.  
916.442.0185 x106  
[capitalcrossroads.org](http://capitalcrossroads.org)  
Front Runners  
916.974.8199, [frsac.org](http://frsac.org)  
Gay & Lesbian Sierrans-Mother  
Lode Chapter  
916.557.1100 x119  
Sacramento Arts & Games Assoc.  
916.451.8663  
The Sacramento Women's Flag  
Football Association  
[SacramentoWomensFlagFootball.com](http://SacramentoWomensFlagFootball.com)

### STORAGE

21st Century Self Storage  
4161 Pell Drive, 916.564.4646

### THEATRES

Lambda Players Theatre  
2427 17th St., 916.444.8229,  
[lambdaplayers.com](http://lambdaplayers.com)  
Runaway Stage Productions  
Sierra II Center  
[runawaystage.com](http://runawaystage.com)

### THERAPISTS

Bruce Gunn, MFCC #M19480  
418 Alhambra Blvd., 916.443.7171

### TRANSGENDER SERVICES

Sacramento Gender Association  
916.290.7226  
[transgender.org/sga](http://transgender.org/sga)

### WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS

Sisters of Scots Women's Motor-  
cycle Club,  
530.692.9467  
[soswmc@hotmail.com](mailto:soswmc@hotmail.com)  
Women Connecting/Coming Out  
Group  
916.628.0803  
Women On Wednesdays Social  
Group  
916.442.0815

### YOUTH SERVICES

California Youth Crisis Line  
800.843.5200  
Queer Straight Alliance  
916.278.7388, [csus.edu/org/qsqa](http://csus.edu/org/qsqa)  
RESPECT Sacramento  
916.733.2135  
[respectsacramento.org](http://respectsacramento.org)  
Teen AIDS Hotline  
800.234.TEEN

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## Calendar Editor Wanted

[editor@mgwnews.com](mailto:editor@mgwnews.com)

### MONTHLY/WEEKLY EVENTS

#### SUNDAY

**SAME-SEX BALLROOM DANCING**—1st & 3rd Sun of each month, Dance Workshop & Guided Practice, Ballroom of Sac., 6009 Folsom Blvd., \$15 per person No partner necessary 916.320.4382

#### MONDAY

**MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP**—Lively discussions exploring gay-related issues in a supportive, non-judgmental environment. Afterward, the group often dines at a local eatery for further discussion and support. Treat yourself and drop in for an interesting and fun evening. 18+. 6:30-7:30pm. Sac. G&L Center, 1927 L St. Info: 916-442-0185 or SacCenter.org

**LESBIAN CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**—Meets the 3rd Monday of each month, 6:30pm Bring partners or support people with you. ROXANNE1040@aol.com

**SACRAMENTO STONEWALL DEMOCRATS**—Meets every 2nd Monday, 6pm, edben-nett1@gmail.com

**MAD MONDAYS AT SAC BADLANDS**—2 for 1 cocktails All Day and All Night, 20th & K, sacbadlands.com

**OPEN MIC POETRY**—Slam, Spokenword, The Coffee Garden, 2914 Franklin Blvd Sacto, Hosted by J2, 7pm 'til it's Silent

#### WEDNESDAY

**WOMEN ON WEDNESDAYS**, Lambda Center, 1927 L St., 916.442.018

**RESPECT SACRAMENTO**, 2nd Wednesday of each month, 6:30pm, LLACE, 1414 21st St, RespectSacramento.org or 916.733.2135

**SPC TRANS PEERS GROUP**, 2nd & 4th Weds. of the month, 7:30pm at Stanislaus PRIDE Center, 823 15th Street in Modesto. tgsupport@stanpride.org, stanpride.org

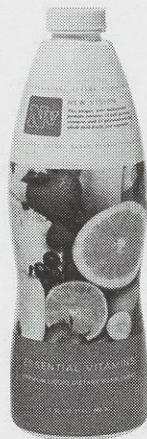
**SAC NOW**, Sac Chapter National Organization for Women, meets the 3rd Thurs. of the month, 7pm, Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St, 27th & J. SacramentoNOW@gmail.com

#### THURSDAY

**BRIEF ENCOUNTERS UNDERWEAR & THEME NIGHT**, 10pm, Strippers, GoGo Boys, contests, Poolside fun and much more, FACES, 20th & K Sts., faces.net

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Supports the health of organs, bones and immune system\* Contains important vitamins and antioxidants essential for your overall well-being\* Antioxidants promote cellular longevity\* Easy to take liquid form and easy for the body to use 32 fl. oz. Decades' worth of published studies have confirmed what government agencies and the medical community are now supporting...taking multivitamins on a daily basis is vital for long-term good health. Essential Vitamins provides a powerful ionic multivitamin formula containing 12 full-spectrum vitamins and 27 phytonutrient-rich, whole food fruits and vegetables. This unique liquid form of multivitamin is more bioavailable (body-ready) than pills or caplets. Plus, it has a delicious citrus berry flavor that bursts with energy and leaves no vitamin aftertaste. \*These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.



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Supports the health of organs, bones and immune system\* Easy to take liquid form 32 fl. oz. All-natural formula The proper balance of minerals is an important factor in your health and wellness. And the only way to achieve that balance is through your diet. To supplement what may be missing in your diet, New Vision offers Essential Minerals, a completely balanced, 100% ionic, all-natural mineral formula that includes over 65 major, trace and ultra-trace minerals. \*These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.



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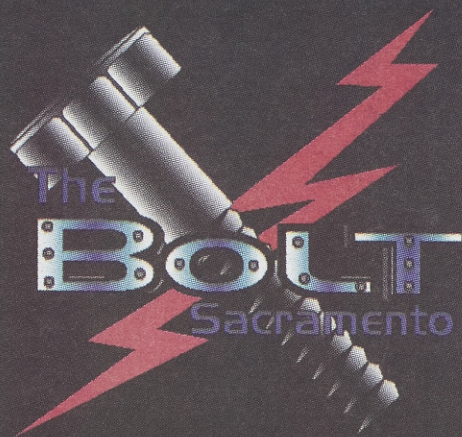


# ANNIVERSARY PARTY!

**Saturday, April 5**  
**2pm - Close**

**Drink Specials**  
**Mexican Food**

**NO COVER!**



**Join us**  
**in celebrating our**  
**second anniversary!**

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